

Aging in Place and Community (AIPC)
Meeting Minutes
March 16, 2011

Participants

Commissioners: Beth Shapiro (co-chair), Grace Whipple (co-chair), Spence Schron, Judy Wells, Miriam Kelty, Elizabeth Brooks-Evans

Others: Sarah Gotbaum (OWL), Amy Cole (JCA), Pazit Aviv (HOC), Deborah Adler (Easter Seals)

Invited Guest: David Mohebbi, President Regency Cab

Topic	Discussion Points	Decisions/follow-up
Introductions	The committee welcomed new COA members Elizabeth Brooks-Evans, who attended the meeting.	
Guest Speaker	<p>David Mohebbi presented an overview of Regency Cab's services. He explained that he has applied for 12 "Special Licenses" from the Montgomery County Dept. of Transportation so he can put 12 newly purchased vehicles designed for seniors on the road in MoCo. These vehicles, 2011 MV-1's, are the first built, not retrofitted, especially for seniors and people with physical disabilities that look more like a car than a 'special' vehicle. It can accommodate 5 passengers including one person that uses a wheelchair or scooter and has many unique accommodations.</p> <p>David made his request to the County for the special licenses in January 2011 and is awaiting approval. Because delivery is expected shortly he explained that he is not able to wait a long time for a decision. He explained that he wants to serve MoCo but if the licenses go unapproved he will bring the vehicles to George's County where he is also licensed to provide taxi services.</p>	<p>The committee asked many questions and was generally excited about the presentation and the prospect of these 12 new vehicles coming to MoCo.</p> <p>Concern was expressed for long wait times which David attributed to the fact that cabs can only wait for calls from 15 places in the county. He expressed that he wished there were more such locations.</p>

	<p>David explained that he would like to expand the free rides services from 100 people to 200/month by offering ½ price service instead of free.</p> <p>David presented an overview of the technology that Regency uses (and sells) to better track waiting passengers.</p> <p>David presented a brief overview of his staff training program and will send a written summary to the AIPC chairs.</p>	<p>The committee members expressed appreciation for of Regency’s services and David’s presentation.</p> <p>David invited the committee to visit his training center in Gaithersburg and offered to pick us up in his cabs.</p> <p>After David left a committee discussion took place about possibly sending a letter of support from the commission drafted by the chair. On further review, we are uncomfortable endorsing a single company, however we would like to endorse the use of vehicles designed especially for seniors and individuals with disabilities.</p>
	The committee discussed the possibility of conducting a needs survey.	Some felt that work had already been done, while others felt that such research was still important as updated data is needed to attract local government and others as well as potential funders. Will be discussed in more detail at April meeting.
	The committee discussed taking on projects beyond transportation.	Leslie Marks will be invited to talk to the committee about housing for seniors.
	Brief discussion took place about ideas for summer study topics.	Ideas will be discussed in more detail at April 13 meeting.

Driver Training	Compile list of best practices of transportation providers for senior service training.	David Mohebbi will send copy of Regency University. Amy Cole will bring information about JCA. Sue Dollins will be asked to bring information on Senior Connection. Other providers will be researched also.
New Items		
Next Meeting	Wednesday, April 13, 2011, 3 – 4:30 p.m.	Gaithersburg Upcounty Senior Center 80-A Bureau Drive Gaithersburg, MD 20878